

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 277948
ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 277948

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, CT

SUBJECT: US/CAE RELATIONS

REF: BANGUI 2337

1. BERT JOLIS, PRESIDENT OF DIAMOND DISTRIBUTORS INC.,
MET NOVEMBER 17 WITH HENRY RICHARDSON OF NSC AS PRE-
ARRANGED. HE MET AFTERWARDS WITH AF/C. ESSENTIALLY JOLIS
ELABORATED ON HIS MEETING WITH BOKASSA AS REPORTED REFTEL
AND ITS POSSIBLE POSITIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE OF US/
CAE RELATIONS. JOLIS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT, ALTHOUGH
ONE COULD NEVER BE CERTAIN HOW LONG IT WOULD STICK,
BOKASSA APPEARED TO HAVE "LEARNED HIS LESSON" FROM THE
RANDAL/GOLDSMITH AFFAIR AND ITS AFTERMATH AND GENUINELY TO
ADMIRE THE PRESIDENT AND THE U.S. AND TO DESIRE GOOD
RELATIONS.

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2. ASKED WHAT THE U.S. SHOULD BE DOING IN POLICY TERMS
AS REGARDS THE CAE JOLIS SAID THAT FIRST OF ALL, WE SHOULD
CONSIDER HOW WE MIGHT HELP BOKASSA TO ACQUIRE A MORE POSI-
TIVE IMAGE. JOLIS FELT THAT BOKASSA'S RECENT REQUEST THAT
JOLIS INTERCEDE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION REPRESENTED AN
ACT OF CONTRITION UNQUOTE.

3. JOLIS EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE USG WOULD NOT BE SENDING A SPECIAL WASHINGTON DELEGATION TO THE CORONATION. WHILE FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD NOT DO OUR INTERESTS IRREPARABLE HARM, IT WOULD DEPRIVE US OF OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE OUR INTERESTS.

4. JOLIS SAID THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL WERE THE CAE TO BE INCLUDED ON THE ITINERARY OF TRAVELLING STATE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER USG PRINCIPALS, EVEN IF ONLY FOR ONE-DAY STOPOVERS.

5. JOLIS IS RETURNING TO WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 22 TO MEET WITH RANGE OF CONTACTS ON HILL, IN THE DEPARTMENT AND AID AND IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO TELL HIS STORY AND, HE HOPES, TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL PERSPECTIVE TO THOSE INVOLVED IN POLICY TOWARD CAE.

6. RICHARDSON HAS DRAFTED CAREFULLY WORDED MESSAGE FROM BRZEZINSKI TO JOLIS WHICH JOLIS CAN TAKE BACK TO BANGUI ON HIS RETURN FOR THE CORONATION AND USE TO DEMONSTRATE TO BOKASSA THAT HE HAS FAITHFULLY CARRIED OUT HIS MISSION IN BEHALF OF THE EMPEROR. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO MEET JOLIS' IMMEDIATE PROBLEM AND OBJECTIVE. VANCE

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